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EDITORIAL COMMENT



TRAINING IN THE HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE

THOSE of our readers who are keenly interested in every phase of nursing education will read Dr. Russell's article on Nursing the Insane with very great interest. In this paper, Dr. Russell has not only shown the development of training schools in the insane hospitals, but he has also pointed out the disadvantages that this class of schools labors under in competition with those of general hospitals, because of the greater lack of interest on the part of the general public in the care of the insane. There is no field of work which calls for the missionary spirit more than in that of nursing the insane, and the appeal is especially for women to fill the places of teachers and organizers in the institutions of every state.

The recognition of the training schools in hospitals for the insane, has been one of the problems, in many instances the stumbling block, in state registration, and the subject is one which should be given intelligent study by all leaders of the registration movement.

Dr. Russell in his position as medical inspector of the State Commission in Lunacy in New York, is studying the question of the development of the training schools from the broadest and most liberal standpoint. We think it is largely through his influence that the thirteen state hospitals of New York have been brought into line with the requirements for registration. Some slight concessions have been made to these hospitals, but the general trend of their development is along the lines suggested by the education department and the board of examiners, and the ultimate result must be that of better nursing care for the insane.

In Illinois, both the Illinois Training School and the Presbyterian

Hospital Training School have formed an affiliation with the Elgin Insane Hospital, the service of three months being part of the regular course in the former, and in the last being optional with the pupils.

We hope to live to see the day when nurses in every general hospital will serve a short period in a hospital for the insane before being registered. In our opinion, the general nurses need this special training nearly as much as the nurses trained in the insane hospitals need the general training.

NURSING OF MALE PATIENTS

SOME points in Miss Bean's article on the problems of the private nurse recall to our mind the criticisms which we have heard from some of our readers for whom we have great respect for publishing the articles on Venereal Prophylaxis and the discussions that have appeared in our pages from time to time on the subject of catheterization of male patients.

If the JOURNAL were published as literature for the general public, we think these criticisms might be well founded. When we consider that the JOURNAL is published for nurses, who both in hospital and in private nursing are constantly brought face to face with such problems, we contend that the discussion of them in any professional nursing journal is not only legitimate but absolutely necessary.

Some superintendents of training schools through carelessness, and others through ignorance, fail to give to their pupils not only the protection which they should have during their training, but the instructions which they need to face the difficult situations which nurses are daily called upon to meet.

In our own experience, as a superintendent of a training school, we tried always to give nurses in training the most careful protection in regard to these matters. Questions of male catheterization, friction in typhoid baths, isolation with contagious cases, etc., being sources of contention with the medical staff during our entire career.

The sudden development of a condition which was thought to be small-pox, in a man brought into a hospital for an operation following an accident, made it necessary for both the patient and the nurse who had been doing his dressings, to be isolated, as it was felt that her exposure had been very great. It proved to be not small-pox but something less virulent, but requiring isolation for some weeks, when the man was returned to the public ward from which he had been transferred.

A few mornings later we found a letter on our desk signed, "The Men of Ward B," which was a protest against sending nurses into the isolation pavillion with men, containing the statement that since his return this patient had been making the most grossly indecent comments on the situation which, these men felt, were too great an indignity for such honorable young women to be subjected to. The men recognized the fact that the woman was too high-minded to have even suspected the vileness of the man's thoughts.

While from our own long years of private and hospital nursing, we believe the man who does not recognize and respond to decency in a woman is an exception, we do believe that the young nurse in training and in private duty needs to be carefully guarded from unnecessary exposure to this kind of insult. It is because of the possibilities of this kind that it is necessary in our training schools that women should have reached years of maturity before being admitted to training.

Miss Bean refers to the necessary caution of nurses in caring for men who are alone in hotels which is another side of the same story. In our opinion, unless a man is ill enough to really require nursing care, we think a nurse is justified in giving first consideration to her own reputation as a woman and to that of the profession of which she is a member.

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

THE Committee of One Hundred, appointed by the chairman of Section 1 of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has as its aim the establishment of a national department of health.

One of the first questions to be decided is whether it will be better to have a separate department of health with a cabinet minister of its own at the head, or to establish a bureau under one of the existing departments. It may be difficult, perhaps impossible, to create a new department. Should a subordinate bureau be established instead, another question to be settled is that of selecting the most suitable department under which the new bureau may work. Part of the work to be undertaken by this new bureau is at present being carried on under the Department of Agriculture, part under the Department of the Treasury, under the name of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, and part under the Department of Commerce and Labor,—that of Vital Statistics.

The work of such a national health bureau is to be similar to that of any department of health, only with a wider scope and higher author-

ity, its great aim being the lessening of loss of life by preventible disease.

The idea has been endorsed by many prominent societies, among them the American Medical Association, and it has the approval of President Roosevelt.

By such a central national bureau, questions of pure food, control of contagious diseases, pollution of water supply, infant mortality, etc., can be taken up and energetically pushed. Communities not sufficiently awake to safeguard their own interests and those of their neighbors can be compelled to abide by hygienic regulations which will result in good for all.

Wisely carried out, such a plan must be an immense factor in hastening progress along the lines of right living. Certainly there is need of some broader authority than now exists for the regulation of sanitary conditions on railroad trains and at resorts of all kinds, to which people are transported in thousands, in half an hour, from the sanitary supervision of a city to a country district that is without laws. The toilet rooms which travelers and picnickers are compelled to use in hot weather are so disgustingly foul that it would seem not improbable that much of the sickness in every community could be traced to them. The remarkable part of it is that decent respectable people accept such accommodations from the railroads and from summer resorts and picnic places where they pay dearly for all the privileges which they may enjoy. With a national law it would be possible to bring all public places under sanitary inspection.

WORK FOR THE YEAR

THE eighth volume of the American Journal of Nursing, which will begin with the October number, will offer to its readers a continuation of the helpful and practical articles which it has always been its aim to furnish.

A paper by Dr. Lowman, of Cleveland, on the Evolution and Development of the Nurse, which will appear in the October number, is the strongest justification we have yet heard of the struggle of nurses for higher education.

The paper in this number on Insane Nursing will be followed soon by one written by a nurse who has been a teacher in schools connected with insane hospitals, giving further information on the same subject along practical nursing lines.

Several papers on Visiting Nurse work are promised for the near future.

The special problems of the private duty nurse will not be forgotten, a paper by Miss Holmes of St. Paul, whose spicy article on hourly nursing last year proved so attractive, will be one of the first to be presented, followed by several on the care of babies and children, by one on post-operative nursing by Miss Perry, and on scarlet fever by Miss Mathieson.

State registration will be kept closely in view and its progress reported, while the new department of Nursing in Mission Stations promises some very interesting material.

Two women physicians of Chicago are preparing a paper on the Opsonic Index, expressed in terms which nurses may understand without a strain of the intellect, and it is hoped that glimpses of life at Cranford Farm may occasionally brighten our pages.

The Book Reviews and Notes from the Medical Press will continue to be carried on by the same able hands, and the Foreign Department will be enriched by Miss Dock's observations during her present sojourn abroad.

At their spring meetings, both the New Hampshire and Texas state nurses' associations adopted the JOURNAL as their official organ. With the new volume we shall stand as the representative of ten organizations.

It is hoped that the JOURNAL readers will make the magazine of use to themselves and others by sharing with it all new knowledge which comes in their way and by asking the help of others in solving vexed questions which arise. An exchange of ideas and questions is always helpful.

To alumnæ members particularly, we appeal for assistance in broadening the circulation, reminding them that the larger the circulation, the more valuable the magazine becomes to the individual reader, as it has always been the policy of the JOURNAL directors to improve the JOURNAL rather than to increase the dividends of the stockholders.

The marked increase in the circulation during the past year was due, undoubtedly, to the fact that during the whole year the business management received the entire attention of Miss Davis a member of the staff, but her success was made possible by the cordial coöperation of members of alumnæ associations, superintendents of training schools, and individual nurses in different parts of the country. More than one instance has come to our notice of women who have made the JOURNAL's interest a part of their campaign for state registration, doing the work

unsolicited and without compensation because they saw the need of professional enlightenment of those away from nursing centres.

Now that the private nursing editor has taken up permanently the detail work in the editorial office, the editor-in-chief hopes to be more at liberty to keep in touch with work in different sections of the country and to give greater time and study, personally, to the new problems which are constantly coming up for consideration than she has been able to do for the last two years.

In closing the volume we extend to all who have coöperated to make the year a success grateful appreciation.

THREE NOTABLE RESIGNATIONS

THREE women who have been prominent in the development of training schools in the first decade of progress, have recently resigned from that field of labor.

Mrs. Gretter, who has been for eighteen years superintendent of the Farrand Training School in Detroit, has relinquished this position for a change of occupation and is to have supervision of the district nursing work of Detroit. Mrs. Gretter is a graduate of the Buffalo General Hospital. She is one of the women who has been morally and professionally a great force in the educational progress of nurses, not only in the west, but of the whole country.

Miss Tooker who has been for fifteen years at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, of which she is a graduate, part of the time as assistant superintendent, and later as superintendent, has retired to life on a farm, in partnership with Miss Hill, the dietician. Miss Tooker has not been a public worker, but has confined her interest and energies almost exclusively to the development of her own school, which she has brought to a high degree of excellence.

Miss Lucy Walker, a graduate of St. Bartholomew's in London, was superintendent at one time of the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia, and has held the same position for a number of years at the old Pennsylvania Hospital. Of late years she has been debarred by ill health from taking a very active part in work outside of her own school, but she has been a great force by her influence on those associated with her, and has always been loyal to every progressive movement for the uplifting of nursing. Miss Walker is to retire to private life in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she will assume the care and education of a young girl cousin who has been recently left an orphan.

The retirement of these three members of the pioneer group of workers creates vacancies which will need to be ably filled if the profession is not to suffer materially in consequence.

Mrs. Gretter is to be succeeded by Miss Krueger, a graduate of the Illinois Training School and of the Economics course, who has been doing excellent work in a less prominent place. Miss Tooker is to be followed by Mrs. Mayfield, a graduate of the Michael Reese school; and Miss Walker by Miss Payne, graduate of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, who was at one time her assistant and has recently been at the head of the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia.

CONFUSING TERMINATIONS

It is a pity that there is not a good plain Anglo Saxon word which could be made to take the place of *alumnæ*, which, being of Latin derivation, and having various forms, sometimes proves a stumbling block to those who have not studied that language. Let us make an effort to get its different terminations clear.

Alumnus, masculine, singular, means a man who is a graduate.

Alumni, masculine, plural, means men who are graduates.

Alumna, feminine, singular, means a woman who is a graduate.

Alumnæ (pronounced *alumnee*) feminine, plural, means women who are graduates.

Of these four forms of the word, the one that concerns us is *alumnæ*. This may be used as a noun, "We are *alumnæ* of our school," or as an adjective, "The Nurses' *Alumnæ* Association."

We constantly see the phrase "Nurses' *Alumni* Association," but unless this phrase is used to describe the graduate association of a school where male nurses are trained, it is incorrect. Some associations of women nurses have this wrong phrase printed on their handbooks and incorporated in their constitutions. Probably this error arose from a remembrance of some high school *alumni* association, but there the case is different, as both men and women are members and the masculine term is used to include all.

At our public meetings we sometimes notice a little uncertainty on the part of the speakers, as if they were not quite sure which form to use. Let us cling to the one form which belongs to us as women, *alumnæ*, and forget there are any others.

In this connection we want to say that always when any suggestion is made for the broadening of the membership of the national *alumnæ*

association some one raises the question of the effect upon the name, of the admission of other forms of societies. Many have the impression that the name applies only to one form of organization.

The Nurses' Associated Alumnae is an association of organizations of women who are graduates of accredited schools. Whether these graduates are banded together in county or city associations or whether they represent one school only, they are all alumnae of schools of good standing, and as such, may be included in the broader meaning of the title of our national society.

THE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

IN our last editorial we neglected to mention, in connection with the work outlined for the coming year at the Richmond meeting, the appointment of a committee on a national pension fund, of which Miss M. E. P. Davis was made chairman, while Miss Jamme of Rochester, Minnesota, and Miss Wyche, of Durham, North Carolina are the members.

The instructions to this committee were to investigate the whole broad field of pension methods and report at the next meeting.

Of course there is the question of different state laws which must be considered and which may be something of a stumbling block, but we believe that by studying the working methods of such funds as the Carnegie Teachers' Pension Fund, the government fund for civil employees, which is now being agitated, and those conducted by labor organizations, there can be evolved, from them all, a plan by which the national pension fund for nurses can be established, under the control of the Associated Alumnae, to which a nurse can contribute during her active years, and, in proportion to her contributions, receive a pension when she retires from active service.

This is one of the most important of our committees and should receive the active assistance of every nurse who can aid in this constructive period by giving to Miss Davis or to either of her associates any facts which may come to her knowledge having a bearing on the successful establishment and management of any such fund.

OMISSIONS FOR WANT OF SPACE

THE number of announcements of graduating exercises sent to the JOURNAL during the summer months has been unusually large. To publish them all in full would practically occupy the whole number, conse-

quently rather than seem unjust to any, we have decided to omit them all for this season.

Many of these took place in May and June and the programmes were of the usual order. It is interesting to note that each year more attention is paid to the graduating classes as their members sever their connection with the schools, that these exercises are taking on more of the form and importance of such functions in other educational institutions, the social side not being omitted, in which the *alumnæ* associations are taking a prominent part in the entertainment of the graduates.

In contrast to our own graduating exercises, which consisted of a less than five minutes' interview with a member of the training school committee who had never condescended to speak to us before, a most formal presentation of the diploma with the somewhat cold remark, "You have done very well,"—the festivities enjoyed by the graduates of today seem to be in delightful contrast.

Another progressive feature, which is increasing slowly in different sections of the country where training schools are affiliated with universities, is that the nurses are graduating with the student body, dressed in the academic cap and gown. This is perhaps more marked in the west and this particular kind of affiliation and development we hope to see increase rapidly over the country.

A PROPOSED NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

At the International Red Cross Conference, held in London in June, Compté A. de Csekonics, the representative of the Hungarian Red Cross Society, paid a beautiful tribute to the work of Miss Nightingale, calling attention to her personal service, to her modesty and self-forgetfulness, to the value of her *Notes on Nursing*, and to her work as a founder of the system of modern trained nursing.

He introduced a resolution which reads as follows: "The incomparable name of Miss Florence Nightingale, who has earned for herself unforgettable renown in the sphere of humanity and elevated the task of caring for the sick, once so humble, to an art of charity, imposes on the Eighth International Conference of Red Cross Societies the noble duty of rendering homage to her virtues, firstly, by a warm expression of its high esteem; by establishing a Nightingale foundation with a commemorative international medal intended solely for such ladies as shall have particularly distinguished themselves in the work of nursing."

It was agreed by the Conference to refer the project to its various branches in the different countries before taking action upon it.

A Nightingale medal, to be bestowed by the International Red Cross organization would be an honor greatly prized by any nurses who might win it.

WORK FOR RED CROSS NURSES.

THE account given on another page of this magazine, of the relief service performed by Red Cross nurses in Boston during the celebration of Old Home week, suggests a present and most useful form of work for nurses enrolled under the Red Cross.

It is always somewhat hard to keep one's enthusiasm at top pitch for indefinite work to be performed at some vague future time, but if Red Cross nurses can prove of constant service in the communities where they dwell, greater numbers will be ready to enroll themselves, and this practice in first-aid treatment on minor occasions will be no poor preparation for the greater emergency of a national calamity.

WORK OF THE INTER-STATE SECRETARY

WE want to urge the officers of state associations to respond promptly to Miss Sly's appeal found in the official department for printed matter relating to state organization, registration, etc.;—and to the officers who are new, and who have perhaps not followed the work closely during the past year, we would say that the inter-state secretaryship has proved to be, under Miss Sly's able management, one of the great forces in the registration movement. Since the creation of that department there has been a recognized fountain head to which the state workers could turn for information and assistance. From Miss Sly they receive the printed reports, copies of bills, etc., from the other states, and also her personal advice, and at many times the inspiration of her presence at public gatherings.

Miss Sly's being an officer appointed by the Associated Alumnae brings the state work into close and definite affiliation with that society, a relationship which it did not have in the beginning.

We would also remind state officers who are seeking information from Miss Sly, that they should prepay postage and express on all packages, and also, when her presence is desired in public meeting, that they should provide for her travelling and hotel expense.

THE PARIS CONFERENCE

Miss Dock's report of the Paris conference needs no word of ours to add to its intense interest. Nurses all over the world will rejoice that the meeting was so largely attended and that it was in the fullest sense so unquestionably a success.

Miss Dock will send us for the October number an account of nursing conditions in France, and in the same number we shall publish Mme. Gillot's paper on the "Early Teaching at the Salpêtrière."

THE NEW YORK STATE MEETING

AFTER an interval of eighteen months, the New York state nurses' association will hold its regular meeting in Syracuse, in October. The first announcement is found on another page and the full program, etc., will be given in the October JOURNAL. We want to remind individual members and affiliated societies that it is time to be considering plans for attending the meeting and the appointment of delegates.

